

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1241

Introduced by Assembly Member Parra

February 21, 2003

An act to add ~~Section 128021~~ *Sections 128371 and 128401* to the Health and Safety Code, relating to health professions.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1241, as amended, Parra. Nursing education scholarships.

Existing law establishes the Health Professions Education Foundation, which among other things, is authorized to recommend to the Director of Statewide Health Planning and Development the disbursement of private sector moneys deposited in the Health Professions Education Fund to students from underrepresented groups accepted to or enrolled in schools of medicine, dentistry, nursing, or other health professions in the form of loans or scholarships. Among the scholarship programs administered by the foundation is the Central Valley Nursing Scholarship (CVNS) program.

This bill would declare that if private source funding for the CVNS program terminates in 2005, and if the foundation is unable to secure additional private sources of funding from hospitals, health plans, foundations, corporations, individuals, and public and private grants, to maintain the program, it is the intent of the Legislature that, when funds become available, the Legislature shall make an appropriation to enable the program to continue.

Existing law establishes the Registered Nurse Education Fund, consisting of specified fees, and administered by the Office of Statewide

Health Planning and Development, for purposes of funding the Registered Nurse Education Program within the foundation, which provides scholarships and loans to nursing students meeting specified criteria.

This bill would require the office to allocate a portion of the funds contained in the Registered Nurse Education Fund for purposes of providing scholarships to nursing students accepted to, or enrolled in, associate degree nursing programs at community colleges in California, and who meet other requirements. It would also require that the scholarships be targeted to students in the central valley counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, and Tulare.

~~Existing law provides for a nursing education scholarship program, administered by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.~~

~~This bill, in addition, would require the office to establish a nursing education scholarship program to assist students residing in the central valley, as defined, who are seeking an associate degree or bachelor of science degree in nursing. The bill would authorize the office to expend money for the program when funds become available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to pay for tuition and textbooks of scholarship recipients.~~

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) There is a severe shortage of registered nurses in California.
4 Currently, California ranks 49th out of the 50 states in the number
5 of registered nurses per 100,000 persons. The central valley in the
6 state suffers from the least number of nurses per capita.

7 (2) *The Health Professions Education Foundation is a*
8 *nonprofit public benefit corporation established to assist the*
9 *Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development with the*
10 *provision of scholarships and loan repayment grants to health*
11 *professional students throughout California who are willing to*
12 *practice in medically underserved areas. The foundation*

1 *accomplishes its mission by making recommendations to the*
2 *Director of Statewide Health Planning and Development with*
3 *respect to the award of scholarships and loan repayment grants to*
4 *health professional students from economically disadvantaged*
5 *backgrounds and demographically underrepresented groups who*
6 *are committed to practicing in underserved areas.*

7 (3) To assist in addressing the severe nurse shortage in the
8 central valley, a central valley scholarship program is necessary.

9 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to
10 ~~establish a scholarship program for students taking nursing~~
11 ~~prerequisite courses or enrolled in California Board of Registered~~
12 ~~Nursing approved programs for an associate degree or bachelor of~~
13 ~~science degree in nursing in the central valley.~~

14 ~~SEC. 2. Section 128021 is added to the Health and Safety~~
15 ~~Code, to read:~~

16 ~~128021. (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this~~
17 ~~article, the office shall establish a separate nursing education~~
18 ~~scholarship program to assist students residing in the central~~
19 ~~valley, as defined in paragraph (2), who are seeking an associate~~
20 ~~degree or bachelor of science degree in nursing.~~

21 ~~(2) For purposes of this section, “central valley” means the~~
22 ~~Counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, and Tulare.~~

23 ~~(b) The office may expend money for the program when funds~~
24 ~~become available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to pay~~
25 ~~for tuition and textbooks of scholarship recipients.~~

26 ~~SEC. 3.— establish a scholarship program for nursing students.~~

27 ~~SEC. 2. Section 128371 is added to the Health and Safety~~
28 ~~Code, to read:~~

29 ~~128371. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that in order~~
30 ~~to assist in addressing the severe nursing shortage in the central~~
31 ~~valley, the foundation administers several programs targeting that~~
32 ~~area and other medically underserved areas throughout the state,~~
33 ~~including the Central Valley Nursing Scholarship (CVNS)~~
34 ~~program. The CVNS program targets six central valley counties:~~
35 ~~Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, and Tulare.~~

36 ~~(b) If private source funding for the CVNS program terminates~~
37 ~~in 2005, and if the foundation is unable to secure additional~~
38 ~~private sources of funding from hospitals, health plans,~~
39 ~~foundations, corporations, individuals, and public and private~~
40 ~~grants, to maintain the program, it is the intent of the Legislature~~

1 *that, when funds become available, the Legislature shall make an*
2 *appropriation to enable the program to continue.*

3 *SEC. 3. Section 128401 is added to the Health and Safety*
4 *Code, to read:*

5 *128401. The Office of Statewide Health Planning and*
6 *Development shall allocate a portion of the funds contained in the*
7 *Registered Nurse Education Fund for purposes of providing*
8 *scholarships to nursing students accepted to, or enrolled in,*
9 *associate degree nursing programs at community colleges in*
10 *California. A recipient shall be required to complete, at a*
11 *minimum, an associate degree in nursing and either work in a*
12 *medically underserved area in California upon obtaining his or*
13 *her degree or obtain a license from the Board of Registered*
14 *Nursing. Scholarships shall be targeted to students in the central*
15 *valley counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, and*
16 *Tulare.*

17 *SEC. 4. The Legislature finds and declares that a special*
18 *statute is necessary and that a general statute cannot be made*
19 *applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the*
20 *California Constitution, because of unique facts and*
21 *circumstances applicable to the central valley of the state with*
22 *respect to a nursing shortage.*

